



Influenza Surveillance Needs You



Collect and Submit Nasopharyngeal Swabs

From at least **two individuals** experiencing influenza-like-symptoms (ILI) symptoms **weekly**



Non-household members

AND

Any individuals with **ILI** who are pregnant, hospitalized, have recently traveled internationally, or have had contact with bird/poultry flocks or pigs/swine



Pregnant Women



Hospitalized Patients



International Travel



Bird/Poultry flocks



Pigs/Swine

Why is this important?

To detect novel influenza



Antigen detection tests are not reliable for detecting the start of influenza season or novel influenza. Detection using molecular assays is important for characterization of influenza A viruses with pandemic potential.

To identify what else is circulating



Besides testing for influenza, our state laboratory also uses a bead-based multiplex molecular assay to detect 16 additional respiratory pathogens* including their subtypes.

To determine illness severity



Specimen submission gives us the opportunity to measure how many influenza-related hospitalizations and deaths have occurred.

To determine the geographic spread



Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing allows us to know where influenza is circulating when combined with ILI% in out-patient settings to assess geographic spread.

For more information visit <http://AlabamaPublicHealth.gov/Influenza>

*RSV (A and B), Coronavirus (229E, OC43, NL63, and HKU1), Human metapneumovirus, Rhinovirus/enterovirus, Adenovirus, Parainfluenza (1, 2, 3, and 4), Human bocavirus, *Chlamydomphila pneumoniae*, and *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*